

MI Child Support Formula - Proposed Child Support Changes

From: "Pam Rieger" <pamelarieger@comcast.net>
To: <mcsf@courts.mi.gov>
Date: 6/30/2003 2:50 PM
Subject: Proposed Child Support Changes

I wish to express my dismay regarding the proposed change in the child support formula, specifically the reduction of child support payments by the noncustodial parent after 52 or more nights per year with the children.

As a divorced parent with two young children, I can tell you without question that this change would be detrimental to the majority of the custodial parents and their families. My child support is already reduced by 50% for each week the children spend 6 or more overnights with their father. I must maintain the home regardless of whether the children are here or not -- mortgage and utilities payments do not get pro-rated. My children spend two evenings per week and every other weekend with their father. They also spend three weeks vacation with their father. These times coincide with his visitation weekends and then qualify for the 6 overnights, and therefore, child support reduction. Changing the formula based on the number of nights spent with the non-custodial parent would very quickly result in further reduced child support. Additionally, the custodial parent is usually the parent with the lower income and the greater responsibility for the children. Any further reduction in child support payments would only worsen the situation for the custodial parent.

Please consider the reality of the situation when attempting to make the law "fair" to everyone.

Thank you,

Pamela Rieger
1921 McDonald Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48073